

REGULARS NOT WELL FED.

SICK MEN IN CAMP WILCOX CANNOT EAT STALE ARMY RATIONS.

Volunteers Get Delicacies from Home, but the Regulars Have Been Forgotten—Red Cross Gets Permission to Distribute Its Supplies Directly to Cavalry Commissaries—Hospitals Are All Crowded—Convalescents Coming Home To-Day.

CAMP WILCOX, Montauk Point, Aug. 22.—The condition of some of the regulars in camp is awful and every day it gets worse. In the matter of baskets and bundles of delicacies the regulars have been entirely ignored. They get nothing but army rations, while the volunteer regiments are getting more in the way of good things every day than they can possibly use. A more uncomplaining lot of men than these same regulars it would be hard to find. Many of them are sick, but they make no complaint. They just lie around their camps and try to get well, a business in which they are making little progress on account of the lack of nourishing food.

It is hard to believe that the Washington authorities are aware of the fact that the soldiers of the American Army are still eating precisely the same kind of food that they got in Cuba, and that in one regiment, the Sixty-first Cavalry, the men are actually on field rations, which means the provisions that were furnished to them in Cuba. This staff must all be eaten up before they can get any fresh supplies, and as the men in bed, the attack mouldy and the men still weak and full of fever as the result of their hard campaign in Cuba, they are having a hard time of it. When the regulars want anything outside of what they get from the Government, they generally go out and buy it. But even this means of getting nourishing food is short of them here, and few if any of them have any money. They have not been paid in three months and don't see any prospect of getting any money in the immediate future.

To-day a Second cavalryman, a pale looking fellow, came up to the *Times* reporter on the road and sheepishly handed out a couple of Mauer bullets said: "Are those worth a few cents to you? I took them from a Spaniard in Cuba and they might make interesting souvenirs."

"What do you want the money for?" asked the reporter.

"To get something to eat," said the soldier.

"I'm starving to death here. I'm too weak to hold the rotten food the Government is giving us and I want to get something decent to eat. There's a three months' pay coming to me but I can't get any of it."

And this is the story that one hour all over the camp. Soldiers are sick, all kinds of souvenirs that they collected in Cuba are in demand, and the only means of getting a meal is to get a little, nourishing food. The only explanation that can be obtained of this state of affairs is that a regular regiment commander cannot draw fresh rations for his men until he has used up what he got in his last requisition without saying so to himself. And while these conditions exist in the camps of the regulars, the camps of the volunteers are overflowing with good things.

To-morrow some of the regulars will get a little taste of luxury themselves. The *Sixty-first* this morning told of Gen. Young's appeal to the Massachusetts men who brought over a tiny boat load of supplies for the already beautifully supplied regiment of volunteers from that State that is now here. Gen. Young's appeal for the regulars was certainly effective, for this afternoon ex-Lieut.-Gen. Hale of Massachusetts and the same party that came here yesterday arrived with the same tiny tug filled with good things for the regulars.

The Red Cross Society has scored a great victory here, and Mr. Howard Townsend, the representative in this camp, is very much elated in consequence. A large amount of supplies has been distributed here by the Red Cross since the camp opened, but Mr. Townsend has been working to help his men direct with the medical commissioners, so that he can reach the people he is after more rapidly and get better results from the food and medicines distributed. The great objection to this plan of doing business from the army standpoint has been that it would involve the recognition of the Red Cross as a part of the army, and nobody here felt that they had any right to take such a step. The result has been that Mr. Townsend has had to do his work in another way than his own, and that has meant red tape delays, which seems unnecessary in view of the fact that everything the Red Cross does is done gratis, and the Government doesn't have to spend a dollar for the tons of good things given to its soldiers.

Last night Mr. Townsend had an interview with Gen. Young, who is in command of all the cavalry here, and is one of the best friends that the privates in the army have. Mr. Townsend told Gen. Young that he could do quicker work and better work if he was allowed to deal with the commissioners of the regiments direct. He asked that permission to conduct the Red Cross work in this way be given to him, and after thinking it over for a while Gen. Young gave him the required permission. Having won out with the cavalry, Mr. Townsend is after the infantry now, and there seems to be no doubt but that he will secure the same privileges there.

To many people the granting of this right may seem a small thing, but folks who know anything of the Red Cross work will understand that one of the greatest obstacles the society has had to contend with in the past of official recognition is, wiped away by the privilege secured by Mr. Townsend. It does away with disadvantages that the Red Cross has had to work under for years, and while it means the distribution of more supplies and the expenditure of more money, it also means a hundred times more relief to the suffering soldier, which is, after all, what the Red Cross is striving to do.

From now on the cavalry commissioners will come straight to Mr. Townsend. They will go over the list of things needed, and when they have reached a decision the commissioner will get an order for what he wants. He can have it filled and the supplies in his camp in an hour's time, so perfect is the Red Cross system, and the soldiers won't have to wait hours for the things they need immediately and can't get from the Government.

There is one unpleasant development in connection with the Red Cross work here. Some of its supplies have been diverted to uses other than they were intended for. Around the hospital Red Cross staff is distributed freely, but it is meant for patients only. There are eight or ten contract doctors here who are engaged because of the small force of military medical men that has come in with the transports. These doctors have been using Red Cross supplies at their own table, according to a high official, and as evidence of this the official took a *Sun* reporter into their mess tent after dinner to-day and showed him twenty-five empty Apothecary bottles. It was Red Cross water, which Mr. Townsend distributes for patients only. This sort of thing, the official said, has been going on for some time and has caused great indignation among the army surgeons, who are entirely devoted to the interests of the sick and have had to stand by and see these doctors using supplies meant for sick men on their own table. Mr. Townsend refused to discuss this subject to-day.

The situation in the hospitals here to-day is serious. There are nearly 1,000 patients in the general hospital, the new hospital which was expected to relieve things having filled up at once. The 250 men in the new hospital are sleeping on the floors. There are no cooks for them and scarcely enough blankets to go round. Three hundred convalescents are to be sent to New York to-morrow on the Rio Grande, which has been fitted up as a hospital ship. The Red Cross has stocked the transport with medicines and supplies. They did the same for the *Olivetan*, which sailed for Boston to-day. The

WHERE THE 71ST MEN ARE.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION OF THOSE NOT SAFE IN CAMP WILCOX.

Grand's old men to be taken to Fort Worth, Hamlin, and Columbus. Miss Wheeler, the daughter of Gen. Joe Wheeler, the commander of this camp, was one of the passengers who arrived on the *Olivetan* from Cuba yesterday. She came ashore to-day before the transport left for Boston. Miss Wheeler has been nursing sick soldiers in Cuba.

"I came up on the *Olivetan*," she said to-day, "because most of the men on her were my patients in Cuba, and I wanted to be with them on the trip home. I have devoted myself entirely to the soldiers since I have been away and am all wrapped up in the work."

The officers got all the attention they could when they are sick, but there has been a scarcity of nurses for the privates, and so I made up my mind to save my time to them. They have borne their sufferings nobly, and the country is to be congratulated in having such men in the ranks of its army."

Two more men died in the hospital to-day. They were Private Frank Norton of Company L, Second Massachusetts, who came from Springfield, and Private John Brewer of Company M, Sixth Cavalry. Two of the men died last week and were buried were recognized to-day as Private Frank Brown, regiment unknown, and Private Thomas G. Dunning of Company M, Sixty-first Regiment, who lived at 312 West 11th street, New York. There was a sad scene in the hospital to-day when the father of Private Fred Farnum of Company L, Second Massachusetts, came here to see his son, who had been reported sick. He was loaded down with delicacies for the boy, and just as he reached the hospital he met no other soldiers carrying out a coffin. The coffin contained Farnum's body. He died on Saturday. The father nearly fainted when he heard of his son's death.

W. H. Gardner, Assistant Treasurer of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, came here to-day with his wife. They were looking for their son, Private Harry Gardner of the Seventy-first Regiment. The last they heard of him he was in a hospital in Cuba. They found him in the hospital here. He had been delirious for two weeks, but regained his senses for a few moments when his mother spoke to him.

Companys R, C, D, E and F of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, colored, were landed from the *Cononaco* to-day. They marched to their camp-hospital under their band. The men looked well and were heartily cheered. A small detachment of the regiment was landed later in the day from the *Rio Grande*. The provost guard were withdrawn from the detection camp to-day.

"To-morrow we are going to the *Tam* to get the men to eat," said the reporter.

"To get something to eat," said the soldier.

"I'm starving to death here. I'm too weak to hold the rotten food the Government is giving us and I want to get something decent to eat. There's a three months' pay coming to me but I can't get any of it."

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